

Madame Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Ken Dalton and I live in Missoula. I am a disabled adult because of a traumatic brain injury.

There are many things I am able to do for myself such as living in my own apartment and maintaining employment. However, there are many things I need assistance with. I depend on caregivers to provide transportation to work and doctor's appointments, medical assistance, financial organization, and community integration. Without the assistance of these caregivers, I would no longer be able to live independently and continue to overcome my disabilities.

I only ask you to adequately fund these services so I, and people in my situation, can continue to be active members in our communities.

Thank You all for listening!

Outline for Legislative Testimony

1. When it is your turn to speak, go to the podium and speak into the microphone. (There will probably be somebody at the hearing that will let you know when it is your turn to speak.) Speak slowly and clearly. Don't be afraid. Remember, the people on the committee want to hear what you have to say.
2. Begin your talk by saying, "Madame Chairman and members of the committee, my name is _____ and I live in _____."
3. Tell the committee about services you receive (or that someone you are representing receives) and how much they have helped. Ask the Committee for the help you are wanting for these services. Remember that the committee members want to know about these needs so they can help. Don't be concerned if you become emotional. Everybody at this meeting realizes that it is not easy to talk about things that are personal and challenging.
4. It may help to write your testimony out on a piece of paper. When you are through speaking, give your paper to the committee secretary. It will then become part of the hearings written record.

5. BE SURE TO THANK THE COMMITTEE IN ADVANCE FOR THE HELP YOU ARE REQUESTING.

Some helpful hints:

1. Don't be afraid. The goal of this committee is to help you and others.
2. Your talk doesn't need to be long (try to keep under 4 minutes). Just say the things that are most important to you.
3. It's all right to read your talk from written notes if you want to do it this way.

You will do a great job!!!

One other thing about Ken going to Helena. We will be leaving at 7:30am and should return home around 4pm. Ken should bring money for lunch or bring a sack lunch. Staff should bring the same and we will reimburse them for the lunch. We also have to make sure that that staff person notes the time they spent in Helena on their timesheet at Legislative times so that it can be tracked in the payroll process.

Thanks for your help!!